

The Tribe of ASHER.

A brief ESSAY
 ON THE
Conspicuous Blessings
 with which
 the PEOPLE of GOD,
 and their OFF-SPRING,
 are known to be the
 Blessed of the LORD.

A SERMON Preached on the
 BAPTISM of a GRAND-CHILD.

*Dico Beatam Vitam Confidere in altitudine
 sapientie, suavitate Conscientiae, Virtutis
 sublimitate; Non sine passione esse, sed
 Victorem passionis esse, Beatum est.*

Ambros. de Offic.

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A Blessed Offspring.

Preached on the BAPTISM of a
GRAND-CHILD. 4.d. VI.m. 1717.

ISAIAH LXI. 9.

*All that see them, shall acknowledge
them, That they are the Seed,
which the Lord has Blessed.*

AND *Blessed indeed are they*
whom the L O R D has
Blessed. None *Blessed* but
such as they ! Now, whose
portion is this *Blessedness* ? It is
here foretold as the portion of the
Israelitish Nation, after they shall be Re-
covered

covered out of their *Unbelief*, and their *Dispersion*, in the latter Days. But in the mean time, it is a portion to be claimed by us *Gentiles*, who pay our Homage to that Great KING, against whom that Nation yet persisting in Rebellion procures to itself a Rejection from GOD, and has His Curse living upon it. The *Kingdom of Heaven* suffers, *a violence* from the *Gentiles* who Believe in the only SAVIOUR, that is a *Light to Lighten the Gentiles*, as well as the *Glory of His People Israel*, Yea, before they come to see their *Glory* in Him. Let us be so *Violent*, as to *take by Force* the *Blessedness*, which belongs to the *Children of God*; The *Force*, and the *Faith* with which we do it, will be exceedingly pleasing unto our SAVI-OUR. The People of GOD are thus brought into the way of *Blessings*; *I will make an Everlasting Covenant with them*. And then a very Illustrious Quality of the *Blessings* will be this; *They shall be Known*; or, *Acknowledged*. And, *they that see them shall Acknow-ledge them*, that they are the Seed which

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the Lord has blessed. Which is as much as to say, That their *Blessings* will be very *Conspicuous*; The *Blessings* will be so *Conspicuous*, and so peculiar, and so transcendent, that there shall be much Notice taken of them. Such Notable *Blessings* are to be expected, for them, with whom the Lord *makes an Everlasting Covenant*, and for the *Offspring* of such. *Conspicuous Blessings* are to be expected for such an *Offspring*. The mention of an *Offspring Blessed of GOD*, leads us to a sense of them whose *Offspring* they are. They are the *Offspring* of such as are *Blessed of GOD*, yea, of such as are particularly *Blessed* in their *Offspring*.

Our DOCTRINE will be this.

VERY Conspicuous are the Blessings,
with which a Gracious GOD, will
Bless the Children of His People, and
of His Covenant.

We shall have our *Doctrine* retailed,
in several *PROPOSITIONS*.

I. The People of GOD are not only a *Blessed* People ; but also there are very *Conspicuous Blessings* which their GOD bestows upon them. Let these Things be distinctly thought upon.

First, It is to be acknowledged, That the People of GOD, must have it said of them, *These are they which the Lord has Blessed* ; Yea, and He will Bless them for evermore. Of them that are the *Children of GOD*, it must needs be acknowledged, *They are the Seed which the Lord has Blessed*. We have been so taught of GOD, Matth. V. 8. *Blessed are they who are called, The Children of GOD*. Now all the People of GOD are the *Children of GOD* ; They are His *Israel*. The People, who Know, and Fear, and Serve the True GOD, Behold, Such manner of Love the Father has bestowed upon them ; *They are called, The Children of GOD* ! Unto all this People, *Ye are my Sons and my Daughters, saith the Lord Almighty*. They may expect a *Fathers Blessing* from

from Him. How *Blessed* are they that have the *Blessing* of such a *Father*! The People of GOD are they that have made Choice of Him for Their God. And their doing so, is the effect of His having Chosen them for His People. Certainly, They are a *Blessed People*, who have an All-sufficient GOD for their GOD : A GOD of Infinite Perfections, concern'd for them : A GOD Infinite in Power, and Wisdom, and Goodness, engaged for their Happiness. It was the ancient Song among the People of God ; Psal. CXLIV. 15. *Happy is that People, whose God is the Lord.* The People of GOD may forever depend upon that : Psal. LXVII. 6. *God, even our own God, shall Bless us.* We do not say, The People of GOD must be a *Wealthy People* : Tho' there will a Day come, wherein they shall be so ; and they shall Inherit all things. But this we do say, The People of GOD, shall be a *Blessed People*. Far greater *Blessings* than what the *Wealth* of this World can afford, belong unto them. We do not affirm, The People of

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of GOD shall see no Troubles ! No ; They often say, *My Soul is full of Troubles.* It is foretold, and they feel it fulfilled unto them ; *In the World ye shall have Tribulation.* They most commonly are, *A poor and an afflicted People.* But this is to be affirmed, Their Troubles bring Blessings with them. They prove the wiser and better for their Troubles. They ever say, *'Tis good for me that I have been afflicted.* The Word of GOD every where gives us the Characters of the Blessed. Our SAVIOUR has particularly given us the Characters of such in His Eight Beatitudes. Diverse of the Psalms in our Psalter have given us the Characters. These Characters are ever found in all the People of GOD. Oh ! Let all the Congregation know this ; Of those who are destitute of these Characters, the Great GOD says, Call them, Lo-ammi, and Lo-ruhamah ; They are not my People ; I will not have mercy on them. It shall be known, That they are not the Blessed of the Lord. In fine ; All the People

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of GOD, have an *High-Priest*, whose Office it is to *Bless* them ; whose design it is to Purchase *Blessings* for them, Dispense *Blessings* to them. No *Balaam*, can divert the *Blessings* of GOD from coming upon them.

Yea more than so ; Secondly, The *Blessings* to be enjoy'd by the People of GOD, may be so *Conspicuous*, that *All they that see them shall Acknowledge, They are the People which the Lord has Blessed.* And there are sundry Regards, wherein the People of GOD will be *Conspicuously Blessed* of Him.

First, The People of GOD are *Conspicuously Blessed* in this, that there are *Conspicuous Discoveries* of their being His *People*, upon them. The People of GOD will be *Discovered* by such marks of *Piety* as will show what they are. They will be *Remarkably Blessed* in those things which are the *Discoveries* of them. To render it *Conspicuous*, that any are the People of GOD, is to render it *Conspicuous*, that they are

are a *Blessed* People. There are certain *Vertues* to be found in the People of **GOD**, by which it is rendered *Conspicuous*, that they are *His* People ; And those *Vertues* are so many *Blessings*, yea, they are the Best of *Blessings*. Concerning the People of **GOD**, We read ; Heb. XI. 14. They declare plainly, what they seek, and what they are. The People of **GOD**, always Declare plainly, That they count it Good for them to draw near unto **GOD**. They Declare plainly, That Sin is an *Abominable Thing* unto them. They Declare plainly, That their **SAVIOUR** is precious to them, and that they are His *Followers*. 'Tis now plainly Declared, That they are a *Blessed* People. For, they who do such Things are a *Blessed* People : Yea, they are *Blessed in their Deed*, vast *Blessings* are in their doing so. The People of **GOD**, are a *Visible* People. They that *shine as Lights* in the World, will be seen. The People of **GOD**, are *Conspicuous Luminaries* to the Earth. 'Tis true ; many are *Visibly* the People of **GOD**, who are not

Really

Really so. But, all they who become *Really* the People of GOD, will be *Visibly* so. People may be by *Profession* the People of GOD, and yet not be such in *Reality*. But if People are in *Reality* the People of GOD, they will make a *Profession* of their being such. They who value themselves, that they never made a *Profession* of *Religion*, do but *foam out their own Shame*; do but proclaim and exalt their *Folly*: do but boast that it is *Profanity* rather than *Hypocrisy*, that is to be charged upon them. Without such a *Profession* of *Religion*, as will render it *Conspicuous*, that we own the *Truths* and *Ways* of our SAVIOUR, we shall be *disown'd* by Him, as those that have been *Asham'd* of Him. The People of GOD, are all of them, His *Witnesses* to the World. The *Testimonies* which they bear for GOD, will render them *Conspicuous* to the World. Our SAVIour has required it of His Disciples; Matth. V. 16. *Let your Light so shine before Men, that they may see your Good Works.* Tho' Good Men are not those

those who do Good Works that they may be seen, yet they do Good Works that will be seen. That Love of GOD, which is the Root of the Righteous in the Soul, is always a Fruitful Thing : There will always be Fruits of it. And those Fruits of Righteousness cannot but be Conspicuous. The People of GOD will have such Tempers, and will do such Actions, as will carry Evidences with them ; It shall be Evident, That they Fear GOD, and Work Righteousness. A People that have Piety Conspicuous in them, are a People Conspicuously Blessed of GOD. Piety is a Thing full of Blessings. They that approve themselves Good Men, are Conspicuously attended with the Blessings of Goodness. What we have hitherto spoken is what is Always to be look'd for : 'Tis what belongs to All the People of GOD. They All are Conspicuously Holy ; To be so is to be Conspicuously Blessed.

But Then, Secondly ; The People of GOD may hope to be Conspicuously Blessed, in very Conspicuous Favours of His

His Providence unto them : *Conspicuously Favoured*, and *Uncommon Ones* ; and such that all who see them shall acknowledge, that they are *Blessed of the Lord*, who do receive them.

And here ; First ; In *This World*, there are some among the People of GOD, who are more *Conspicuously Favoured* of Him. Among the People of GOD, there are some, who are *Conspicuously Favoured* of Him, in His *Answers of the Prayers*, which they make unto Him. There are some, whose *Prayer availeth much* ; Some who have the *Golden Key* to the Treasures of Mercy, under a skilful, powerful, successful management ; Some who have their Petitions to Heaven so granted, that all they who see them, acknowledge them to be the *Favourites of Heaven*. It may be said unto them, as in, Gen. XXXII. 28. *As a Prince thou hast power with God.* Again ; Among the People of GOD, there are some who are *Conspicuously Favoured* of Him, in various Articles of Prosperity with which He Favours them. They are *Blessed with*

with Riches, Blessed with Honours, Blessed in their Families, at such a rate, that all they who see them, acknowledge that the Lord has blessed them, and has done Great Things for them. So it was said of Abraham, *The Lord has blessed my Master greatly, and he is become Great.* So we read, *The Lord Blessed the House of Obed-Edom.* So the Devil himself could not but acknowledge of Job, Chap. I. 10. *Thou hast Blessed the work of his Hands.* And when these Favours of GOD, are the sensible Rewards of Piety, of Devotion, of Self-denial, still more Conspicuous the Blessings in them.

However, Secondly. In the *World to come,* There, Then, all the People of GOD shall be most *Conspicuously Favoured of Him.* In that World, when, 2 Thes. I. 10. Our SAVIOUR shall come to be Glorified in his Saints, and admired in them that Believe. In that World, when the People of GOD shall be Kings and Priests unto Him, and receive a Crown of Life, and Walk in White before Him; In that World, when the Righteous will shine in the Kingdom

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Blessed Kingdom of their Father. O Beloved, it doth not yet appear, what we shall be, but we know that when our SAVIOUR shall appear we shall be like Him. And then every one shall Know that we are Blessed of Him ; every one shall hear Him say unto us, Come ye Blessed ! Then, Then, most assuredly, all who see them shall acknowledge them to be the Blessed of the Lord.

II. The Gracious GOD, who will Bless His People, will also confer Conspicuous Blessings on the Children of His People, and of His Covenant.

And here, Let us be duly affected with the Blessings, which a GOD who is Good, and who does Good, has to confer upon us.

First, The Glorious GOD by taking the Children of His People into His Covenant bestows Conspicuous Blessings both on His People and on their Children. Our GOD has with a most Conspicuous procedure in it, said of His People, I will make an Everlasting Covenant with them. The Great GOD never

makes a *Covenant* with His People, but He takes in their *Children* with them ; the *Children* which He looks on as *Parts* of them ; the *Children* which are comprehended in their *Acts* and *Deeds*, until they can *Transact* for Themselves. The *Covenant* made with our Father *Abraham*, ran in these Terms ; Gen. XVII. 7. *To be a GOD unto thee and unto thy Seed after thee.* When the *Covenant* was renew'd with the Church in the Wilderness, GOD then expressly took in their *Little Ones*. To render this the more *Conspicuous*, there was a *Seal* of the *Covenant* then appointed for their *Little Ones*. When the Jewish *Nation* by refusing the *KING*, who was the *Lord whom they sought*, and the *Messenger* of the *Covenant*, shut themselves out of the *Covenant*, the *Gentiles* were taken in. The *Kingdom* of GOD was then set up among the *Gentiles*, and they were brought in to sit down with the *Patriarchs*, in the *Enjoyments* of the *Covenant*, when the *Nation* which once were the only *Children of the Covenant*, are *cast out*, and must remain in

in Outer Darkness, until the Times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. The Covenant remains the same for the Essence of it. Our SAVIOUR accordingly says of our Little Children, Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven. If the Children of the Faithful were left out of the Covenant, in the Evangelical Dispensation, it would be too Essentially different from the Patriarchal Dispensation. What a grievous and cruel objection must the Jews have had against the Invitation, which the Apostle Peter gave them, to comply with the Evangelical Dispensation of the Covenant ? if they might have said ; Alas, Our Children were once in the Covenant of GOD with us ; But now they must no more be so : Instead of this, our Apostle said concerning that Covenant of Grace, which had hitherto taken in the Children of the Faithful with their Parents ; Acts II. 39. *The Promise is for you and for your Children, and for all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call ; For the Gentiles that were afar off, as well as for the Jews ; yea, for*

America, as well as for Asia. And it is for this cause, that now also, we apprehend a sufficient Warrant, for applying a Seal of the Covenant unto the Infants of them that chuse the Things that please GOD, and lay hold on his Covenant. The Word of GOD now says to Believers on our SAVIOUR ; 1 Cor. VII. 14. *Your Children are Holy :* Which is as much as to say, *They are in the Covenant of GOD.* The Rite, which our SAVIOUR has appointed, for to signify an Admission into His Covenant therefore belongs unto them, and should be practised among them who would. *Keep the Statutes of the Lord.* Now, Let us make these Reflections.

First. The Parents among the People of GOD, count themselves *Conspicuously Blessed* in this ; That in His Covenant He will please to Include and Accept their *Children* with them. When *Abraham* heard the Great GOD say unto him, *I will be a GOD unto thee, and unto thy Seed,* We read, Gen. XVII. 17. *Abraham fell on his Face ;*

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As one astonished at the *Blessings* thus granted unto him ! Godly Parents when they see their *Children* brought into the *Covenant* of **GOD**, may well fall on their Face, and with an abased Soul, yea, with an amazed Soul, cry out ; *Lord, what am I ! And what is my House ! That thou shouldst be a GOD unto us ! That my Children, instead of being treated as a Generation of Vipers, may have thee for a GOD unto them !* Our **GOD** receiving our *Children* into His *Covenant*, assures Two Things unto us. First, He assures us, That if our *Children* Dye in their *Infancy*, yet they shall not be *Lost* ; but have a part in the *Blessings* of the *Future State*. Of them who have **GOD** for their **GOD**, we are informed ; Heb. XI. 16. *He hath prepared for them a City.* There will be found *Mansions* for these *Children* in the *Holy City*. Secondly, He assures us, That if our *Children* out-live their *Infancy*, they shall at least have the Tenders of the *Gospel*, and of its *Blessings*, made unto them. Unto them of Old, was it said ; Act. III. 25, 26. *You are the Children*

Children of the Covenant, Unto you first GOD sends His Son Jesus Christ to bless you. These Children shall at least have an opportunity to embrace an offer'd JESUS, and be Blessed in Him. O Christian Parents, Don't you value these Blessings as more invaluable than the Gold of Ophir? I am sure, you do! GOD Conspicuously receiving your Children into His Covenant, All that see them will acknowledge that they are an Offspring which the Lord has Blessed.

Secondly, By Consequence, The Children thus taken under the Wings of the Covenant, are Conspicuously Blessed in being so. The Parents are Blessed, because of the Blessings which they see coming on their Children. How Blessed then are the Children! Oh! Blessed the Children over whom there is heard this Joyful Sound; I will be their GOD! It is to hear the Glorious GOD saying, I will surely do them Good! Where the Covenant comes, We read, Gal. III.14. The Blessing of Abrahams comes on the Gentiles thro' Jesus Christ. How Blessed are the

the *Children*, who expiring in their early Minority, are sure of an Inheritance among the Spirits of *Just Men Perfect*! How *Blessed* are the *Children*, who as they grow up, are sure to have a *Redeemer*, solliciting of them to be *Reconciled unto GOD*! How *Blessed* are the *Little Ones*, who have *their Angels*, and are at length taken up to a *Glory* wherein they shall be *equal to the Angels*! But above all; How *Blessed* are the *Children*, who by their own actual closing with the *Covenant*, make sure of all the *Blessings* in it! The *Covenant* of *GOD*, is full of *Blessings*. Oh! How *Blessed* are they whose *Transgression is forgiven*? How *Blessed* are they, who are turn'd from their *Iniquities*? How *Blessed* are they, who have a claim to all the very Great and Precious Promises! How *Blessed*, How *Blessed*, they who claim and gain all the Spiritual *Blessings* of the *Heavenly Places*! But so *Blessed* will the *Covenant* of *GOD* render the True *Children* of it. Conspicuously *Blessed* Ones! All that see them will acknowledge, that they are an *Offspring which the Lord has Blessed*. Secondly,

Secondly, Among the People of GOD, there are some *Children* of His *Covenant*, who above others have *Conspicuous Blessings* to distinguish them. Some *Children* among the People of GOD, have *Distinguishing Blessings*. There are *Spectators* entertained with the *Blessings*; The *Blessings* upon them are such, that *all who see them, will acknowledge them to be the Children which the Lord has Blessed.*

More particularly, First, There are *Children* of a *Distinguish'd Piety*; and of these *Children* it may be said, That *Conspicuous Blessings* are poured out upon them. Of some *Children* we read, Isai. XLIV. 3. *I will pour my Spirit on thy Seed, and my Blessing on thine Offspring.* The *Children* who have the *Spirit* of GOD poured on them, are *Blessed* indeed; have a *pour* of *Blessings* on them. All *Blessings* are entail'd on *Piety*; It has the *Promise* of the *Life that now is, and of that which is to come*. And *Piety* is itself the chief of all *Blessings*; it has the most inestimable *Blessings* contained and comprised in it. Now there

there are Children that have a very Conspicuous Piety in them. We have been told of some Children, so Conspicuous for their Piety, that a Man of GOD could not but say upon it ; 2 Joh. 4. I rejoiced greatly, that I found of thy Children walking in the Truth. Some Children are of such Conspicuous Piety that All who see them will Acknowledge, They are Children which will not Lie, but are afraid of doing any wicked Thing ; are universally conscientious. All will Acknowledge, Tho' they are but Children, they are serious, they are discreet, they are the Servants of their SAVIOUR. All will Acknowledge, They are Early Seekers of GOD, and while they are yet Children, they know and prize, and mind the Holy Scriptures, and are made wise unto Salvation. These are Children that are Blessings. But how Conspicuous are their Blessings ! Children these are that shall be Blessed ; yea, All that see them will Acknowledge, that they are already such as the Lord has Blessed.

Secondly,

Secondly, There are *Children*, whose Parents are signally *Blessed* in them ; *Distinguisht* by being so ; and of these *Children* it may be said, That they Inherit *Conspicuous Blessings*. When *Children* are Good, and when they do well ; the *Hearts* of the *Parents* are made *Glad* : Unto wise *Children* it may be said, as in Prov. XXIII. 25. *Thy Father and thy Mother shall be glad ; and she that bare thee shall rejoice.* There are *Children* who are *Conspicuous Blessings* to their *Parents*. As the Roman Lady, when her *Visitants* proposed the sight of her *Jewels*, put them off, till her well-instructed *Children* came home from School, and then produced them, saying, *These are my brightest Jewels* ; There are *Parents*, who, if they bring in an *Invoice* of their *Blessings*, very near the Top of the Account, there will stand their well-disposed *Children* ; and it must be said, *These are their Matchless Blessings.* All that see them, Acknowledge, They are *Parents* greatly *Blessed* in their *Children*. It may be, The *Children* are such as Do worthily
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and are Famous. And the Parents are the Joyful Beholders of the Figure they make in their Services to their Generation. Their Sons come to Honour, and they know of it ! The Blessings of these Children are Conspicuous, are Marvelous ! And so are the Blessings of the Children, who are singularly Dutiful unto their Parents. There are Children of whom the Parents have said, *This same shall Comfort us !* and the Children have done it. Their Obedience unto their Parents, has been as exact as any Reckabites : Their Gratitude unto their Parents, has been like that of a Joseph. They have Comforted their Parents; yea, Relieved them, Supported them, and been the Restorers of their Life, and the Nourishers of their Old Age. GOD uses to multiply most Conspicuous Blessings upon such Dutiful Children. It is noted concerning the Fifth Commandment ; Eph. VI. 2. It is a Commandment with a Promise ; That it may be well with thee. Conspicuous Blessings usually follow the Children which are Exemplary for the keeping of that Commandment. Such

Things are usually done for them, that *All who see them, Acknowledge they are Children which the Lord has Blessed.*

APPICATION.

I. The way to obtain and secure *Blessings*, yea, the most *Conspicuous Blessings*; is now laid out before you. Become the *People* of **GOD**, and you infallibly become a *Blessed People*. When *all that see you, must Acknowledge that you are the People of GOD*, you will be *Acknowledged a People Blessed of the Lord*. But in what way shall we become the *People* of **GOD**! The Answer shall be short; Let the Glorious **GOD** find you, what all *His People* are, in that Point; Psal. CX. 3. *A willing People*. Oh! may you under the Influences of **GOD**, become *willing* to have Him for *your GOD*, and *willing* to be the Lord's *Willingly, Heartily, Cheerfully consent unto it*: O Great **GOD**, Be thou my **GOD**, and Let me be bound up in the Bundle of Life among thy *People*! Hereupon, Become *willing*

willing to Be, all that GOD would have you to Be. Become willing to Do, all that GOD would have you to Do. Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts ; if I will not pour out Blessings upon you. But then, shall I step into Mount Ebal, and call from thence unto you ? If ye refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured with Curses ; The Mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

II. But what shall be done by the People of GOD, that so their *Children* may be the *Blessed* of the Lord ; yea, arrive to such *Conspicuous Blessings*, that all who see them shall acknowledge, That they are the *Children* which the Lord has *Blessed* ! We have a Strong Desire to see our *Children* enriched and surrounded with *Blessings* ; We Desire nothing more Naturally, Desire nothing more Violently. But, my Friends, What will you do, that you may see your Desire accomplish'd, in what will be Sweet unto your Souls ?

Your Piety brings your *Children* into the Covenant of GOD ; And this will
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bespeak *Blessings* for them. Oh ! moving Argument, O potent Perswasive, to Piety ! By the Piety, wherein you sincerely Embrace the *Covenant* of GOD, you procure *Blessings* for your *Children* as well as for your selves. While you remain destitute of Piety, you are *Strangers to the Covenant*. But, Oh ! Think what you expose your *Children* to ! O more hard-hearted than *Ostriches* : How can you so leave your *Children*, where they may be *crush'd* and *brok'n*, without prospect of any but *Unevvenanted Mercies* ? How can you so *barden* your selves against your *Young Ones*, as tho' they were not yours ! Were not you *deprived* of *Wisdom*, you would have your *Hearts* pierced with the Cry of the *Young Ones* ; O pitty us, O pitty us ! Oh ! Our Parents, Let your Piety do its part that we may not be lost. Become you the *Lord's*, that we also may be the *Lord's*. Methinks, you are too like the barbarous Idolaters, who made themselves deaf unto the Cry of their *Children*, when broiling in the *Fires* of the Valley of *Hinnom* !

But

But having by Piety brought your Children into the Covenant of GOD, Let your Piety go on, and give them an Education agreeable to the Dedication which you pass upon them. Instruct them ; Advise them ; Restrain them ; Set a Pattern of all Piety before them. And, Oh ! be concern'd with importunate, with perpetual Supplications for them. As David pray'd ; 1 Chron. XXIX. 19. Give unto Solomon my Son, a perfect Heart, to keep thy Commandments. Thus, Pray with Agony, even with a Travailing Agony, O Give to my Child a Pious Heart, and an inclination to keep thy Commandments. Beg it, Urge it, Press it ; Like them who of Old addressed our SAVIOUR, on the Bodily Miseries of their Children ; Lord, Heal all that is amiss in the Soul of my Child ! And, Lord, Let no evil Spirit possess the Soul of my Child ! Hold on Praying and Weeping, Oh ! That my Child may live in thy sight ! Hold on, until thou perceive the Lord saying to thee ; Concerning this Child, I have heard thee !

III. But Let the *Children* among the People of GOD, now hearken to the *Warnings* of GOD, that they do not sin away His Blessings, and that they do not bring down *Conspicuous Curses*, and such a Vengeance from Heaven upon themselves, as that all who see them, shall acknowledge, *That they are the Children who are abhorred of the Lord.*

O Children of the *Covenant*, Be it known unto you; If you sin against the *Covenant of GOD*, you sin away the *Blessings* of it; and GOD will make your *Plagues* wonderful. What will the *Covenant of GOD* avail, for them who tread under foot the Son of GOD, and under all the Obligations of the *Covenant*, become and remain *Unholy Things*? Children, Don't think to say within your selves, *We have Abraham for our Father*, and, *We are in the Covenant of our SAVIOUR!* For if after you have been as *Trees water'd with Baptism*, you don't at the Age proper for it, bring forth the *Fruits of Piety*, GOD will *cut you down*, and cast you into the *Fire of His Indignation.*—

O Hearken to this : You must at the Years capable of it, your selves come into the *Covenant* of GOD. The Choice and Voice of your Souls must be that ; Exod. XV. 2. *The Lord is my God, and I will prepare Him an Habitation : my Fathers God, and I will exalt Him.* Having so entered into the *Covenant* of GOD, you must then *walk* in the ways of the *Covenant*. Yea, you must be lovely *Spectacles of Piety*. *All that see you must have Reason to Acknowledge*, That you are *Children* that abhor *what is Evil*, and cleave to *that which is Good* ; *Children* that are the *Followers of the Good One* ; *Children* that are *Prayerful* towards GOD, *Watchful* over your selves, *Fruitful in Good Works*. Then, you shall be, and you shall have, *Conspicuous Blessings* from Above.

But you read of some who are called *Cursed Children*. Oh ! Be effectually *warned* of GOD, That you shun the Things that will make you such, and, *Flee Youthful Lusts*. *Baptized Children* ; Are any of you *Vicious Children*? What! *Prayerless Wretches* ! Abandon'd unto *Gaming*,

Gaming, Drunkenness, Uncleanness? Accustomed unto the horrid *Language* of Swearing, and Cursing, and Ridiculing all that should be Reverenc'd! Ah! woful Children, your *Baptism* will but be an aggravation of your Condemnation. 'Twill Double your Miseries, when a Righteous GOD shall *Baptize* you over again, and shall dip you, and drench you, in that *Lake* from whence the *Smoke of the Torment ascends for-ever and ever.*

And the more *Conspicuous* any of your *Predecessors* and *Progenitors* have been for their *Piety*, the more *Infamous* will your Vices render you; the more *Conspicuous* will be the *Revenge*s of GOD upon you. As it was of old employ'd as a Conviction upon an *Un-godly Son*; Jer. XXII. 17,—Did not thy Father do Judgment and Justice, and then it was well with him? But thine Eyes and thine Heart are not upon any thing but thy Coveteousness. Thus may it be said unto many an *Un-godly Son*, Was not thy Father a constant Seeker of GOD? Was not thy Father, a Sober, as

as well as a Devout Man? Was not thy Father a Man who Kept his Tongue from Evil? And all that saw him, Acknowledged, he was one in Favour with GOD and Man. But thou art the Reverse of all this. How dreadful, how dreadful, will be the Punishment that such Apostates will have assign'd unto them? Children, Be prevailed withal, To Think upon your ways, and to Turn your Feet unto the Testimonies of GOD; yea, To make Haste and not delay to keep His Commandments.

But, O Remember this One Thing. You will never come to Good, nor can any Conspicuous Blessings ever come at you, till you shake off all Vicious Company. You may pretend this and that; If you can take Delight in Vicious Company, and affect a Familiarity with Vile Persons, you have not the least Beginning of Piety in you. Their unreproved Crimes you will make your own. It won't be long before you Learn their Ways. They will hold you fast in the Gall of Bitterness, and the Bond of Iniquity. You will one day bitterly

bitterly Curse the Day that that ever you were acquainted with them.

Dear Children ; If you would ever have *all that see you, to acknowledge that you are the Children whom the Lord has Blessed !* Hearken to me, in this One thing ; this One thing ; *Forsake the Foolish, and Live !*

To the Children that have been *Baptized* among us, and are now capable of considering the Obligations in their *Baptism* laid upon them, there are Three very Solemn **QUESTIONS**, to be tendered ; Unto which, **O CONSCIENCE**, do thou extort a deliberate Answer from them.

QUEST. I. In your *Baptism*, has there not been done *That* for you, upon which the People of **GOD**, and a *Cloud of Witnesses*, who have *Seen* you, have *Acknowledged*, That you have been Devoted unto the Service of your **SAVIOUR** ; And bound to live as it becomes the *Children of GOD the Father*, the *Subjects of GOD the Son*, and the *Temples of GOD the Holy Spirit* all your Days ?

Days? Yea, And was it not a *Conspicuous Blessing* for you to be brought under such a *Dedication to GOD*?

QUEST. II. If it be plain, that after your *Baptism*, you follow Wicked Courses, and *walk in the vanity of your Mind*, will not all the Good People that see you, *Acknowledge*, That even in that very Thing, you are dreadfully *Cursed of GOD*? And if you prove *Briars and Thorns* in this *Field of GOD*, which has the *Rain often coming upon it*, are you not *nigh unto cursing*, and will not your End be, that you shall be *Burned*? Yea, Has not the Vengeance of GOD upon our *Backsliding Children* in a Multitude, Oh! What a Multitude! of Instances, been so *Conspicuous*, that you have cause to *fear and quake exceedingly*, even at what you your selves have seen of the Things done unto them?

QUEST. III. What if you should make that effectual Cry, *O my GOD, Pour out thy Good Spirit upon me!* —Cry thus unto Him, who gives the *Holy Spirit*

Spirit unto them that ask Him ; until you are filled with the Holy Spirit, and then clothed with the Holy Spirit ; and every one shall see, that you have an Holy, Serious, Devout, and Honest Spirit acting of you ! Would not all that see you, then Acknowledge, that you are Children Blessed of GOD ? Yea, Is not this the most Significant and Compendious way of coming at the Blessings your Heavenly Father has Ready for you ? O our Children, Hear now my Reasoning. Hearken to these Considerations !

I Conclude with recommending it unto the People of GOD, that they would seek after the Fulfilment of that Word ; Psal. CXV. 13, 14, 15. *He will Bless them that fear the Lord, both small and great. The Lord shall increase you more and more, you, and your Children. You are the Blessed of the Lord, who made Heaven and Earth.*

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